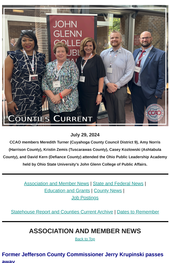
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July 29, 2024

CCAO members Meredith Turner (Cuyahoga County Council District 8), Amy Norris (Harrison County), Kristin Zemis (Tuscarawas County), Casey Kozlowski (Ashtabula County), and David Kern (Defiance County) attended the Ohio Public Leadership Academy held by Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Former Jefferson County Commissioner Jerry Krupinski passes away



Last week, former Jefferson County Commissioner Jerry Krupinski passed away at the age of 83.

Krupinski served in the Marine Corps and worked as a coal miner and insurance agent. He served as Jefferson County Commissioner from 1981 to 1997 and represented the county in the Ohio Statehouse from 1988 to 2000.

You can read more about Krupinski's life here.

Expanded Sales Tax Holiday begins tomorrow

The Expanded Sales Tax Holiday, authorized in the state operating budget, will take place from 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, August 8.

The 10-day holiday allows tax-free purchases made both in-person and online on eligible items up to $500. Excluded items include alcohol, motor vehicles, watercraft, tobacco, vapor products, and cannabis products.

An important part of the statutory language creating the Expanded Holiday is that the state must reimburse the revenue losses to counties and transit authorities that levy permissive sales taxes and the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund. The state set aside $750 million in a special fund to reimburse the state GRF and local governments for resulting revenue losses.

However, the language only requires the state to reimburse counties, transit authorities, the LGF, and the PLF for foregone revenue in August. Since the holiday includes two days in July, as it stands those entities will not receive reimbursement for foregone revenue that occurs during those days.

The Governor's Office and the Department of Taxation have spoken with CCAO and intend to work with the Association and the legislature to maintain the spirit of the original language and ensure that counties and other affected entities will receive reimbursement for those two days as well.

The Department of Taxation and the Office of Budget and Management have not yet decided on the manner of reimbursement, whether the reimbursement will be included in the sales tax distributions in October or if there will be a supplemental, separate payment in October. We will keep members informed when the administration makes a decision on reimbursement method.

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck at jhoneck@ccao.org.

CCAO publishes CAB on Auditor of State fraud reporting training; all county staff must complete by September 28

All county commissioners, executives, council members, other county elected officials and all current county staff are required to complete a new, mandatory fraud reporting training through the Auditor of State's office by **September 28, 2024**. All public employees and elected officials are required to take the training once every 4 years.

Elected officials are unable to delegate this training to another employee and must complete the training themselves.

Any new county employees hired after September 28, 2024, must take the training within 30 days of the first day of employment and all elected officials must take the training within 30 days after taking office. The requirement is ongoing and training must be completed once every four years.

The training is a free, 8-minute video that is available on demand on the Auditor of State's website. Each elected official and county employee will register, watch the video, and then receive a certificate of completion. All certificates should be collected from employees and retained for audit.

A detailed explanation of these requirements is available in Auditor of State Bulletin 2024-004 and in CCAO's recently published CAB 2024-01 AOS Fraud Reporting Training.

The Auditor of State website includes FAQs and sample tools for tracking employee participation.

If you have questions regarding the training, you can contact the Auditor of State's office here.

Updated LGF estimates show dip in CY 2024, increase in CY 2025

Late last week, the Ohio Department of Taxation posted updated estimates for CY 2024 Local Government Fund distributions and the initial CY 2025 estimates.

The LGF receives 1.7% of monthly state General Revenue Fund tax revenue. The June update for CY 2024 shows a slight decrease in the total distribution amount to the County Undivided Local Government Fund when compared to the estimates released in December 2023. However, the initial estimate for CY 2025 shows an improving revenue trend. More information can be found on the Department's LGF distributions page under the "Forecasted Revenue" tab.

County Undivided Local Government Fund Estimates - Department of Taxation		
CY 2024 (December 2023)	CY 2024 (June 2024)	CY 2025 (At 2024)
$4912.4 million	$4846.4 million	$4918.6 million

Additionally, the Department requests that county auditors use the County Portal to complete the Calendar Year 2025 Report on Distribution of Estimated Undivided Local Government Fund (RAJU) and submit by September 30, 2024.

Property and Buildings Handbook Chapter updated

Last week, CCAO published an updated version of Commissioners Handbook Chapter 6: Property and Buildings. The updated chapter reflects recent changes in competitive bidding and prevailing wage thresholds that were enacted past part of recent legislation.

Traffic enforcement camera annual report due *WEDNESDAY*

Any county that operated or contracted with another party to operate any traffic enforcement cameras during the previous state fiscal year (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024) is required a file a report with the Department of Taxation no later than July 31 (**this Wednesday!**). This report is required by R.C. 5747.062 and must contain the location of traffic enforcement cameras and the civil fines collected from the cameras in school zones and non-school zones.

A copy of the report can be accessed here. If you have questions concerning the reporting requirement, please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation, Revenue Accounting Division at RevenueAccounting@tax.state.oh.us or call (614) 466-7100.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Ohio Grants Portal open for OTSCIF recipients

On Friday, the Office of Budget and Management announced that awardees under the One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund (OTSCIF) may register through the Ohio Grants Portal to access the funds granted through the capital budget process.

Counties that were awarded funds should ensure that they are registered through the Ohio Grants Portal, and we encourage counties to share this information with other local governments or community organizations that may have received funding through OTSCIF. The full list of OTSCIF awards can be found here.

If you have trouble registering or encounter other difficulties, please contact grants@ohio.gov with questions.

Great Lakes Commission releases improved water use database

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) announced that it has released an updated Great Lakes Water Use Database website.

The GLC states the new website is more secure and will make it easier for the public to access water use data. Upgrades to the site include: a streamlined, more intuitive process for water use data managers to report their jurisdictions' data and metadata; an improved public-facing "create your own query" tool that will allow users to create charts based on their specific data selections; and enhanced security features to better protect data before it is published.

For nearly 40 years, as part of the historic water agreements, the eight states and two provinces in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin have provided water use data to the regional water use database. The GLC compiles and summarizes these datasets into an annual report that is submitted to the Compact Council and Regional Body, which manage the agreements to sustainably manage Great Lakes water.

To view the new website, visit waterusedata.glc.org.

JobsOhio releases 2023 annual report and 2024 strategic plan

JobsOhio recently released its 2023 annual report and 2024 strategic plan. The strategic plan focuses on four strategic initiatives: sites, talent, small business and communities. According to the report, according to the four initiatives "provide companies and Ohio's teams with a competitive advantage."

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner:

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COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Paulding County commissioners establish public defender commission

Crescent News, July 27, 2024

A county public defender commission has been established in Paulding County.

Paulding County commissioners recently voted to establish the commission. In the past, Paulding County courts have assigned counsel from a list of eligible attorneys for indigent defense.

Appointees to the commission will have terms ranging from Aug. 1-July 31, 2026. Individuals are appointed by the commissioners and common pleas court.

Commissioner appointees include George Carter, Abby Hornish and Brion Hanenkrat while common pleas court appointees include Jagger Landers and Stanley Searing.

Northeast District

Commissioners adopt resolution increasing ADAMHS Board membership

News Herald, July 24, 2024

A change to the composition of the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board has been authorized by a recent resolution unanimously adopted by the Lake County commissioners.

With the action, pursuant to House Bill 33, which was passed last October, ADAMHS Board membership has increased from 14 seats to 15 seats.

The legislation also mandates which local and state bodies appoint members, noted Lake County Administrator Jason Boyd, who, serving as the commissioners' representative, attended an ADAMHS Board meeting in April to solicit feedback on the potential change.

"The commissioners appoint eight members and the state of Ohio appoints six," he said. "House Bill 33 allows ADAMHS boards to be composed of nine, 12, 14, 15 or 18 members. The law states that the county will appoint two-thirds of the board with the remaining one-third to be appointed by the director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for four-year terms."

In 2013, the commissioners, upon request of the ADAMHS Board, passed a resolution to change the composition, per the Ohio Revised Code, amended by House Bill 59, to reduce the number of members from 18 to 14.

Central District

Commissioners renew property tax rollback

Delaware Gazette, July 27, 2024

The Delaware County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to renew the 0.5-mill property-tax rollback it originally enacted two years ago. This second one-year renewal, based on current property valuations, would provide nearly $6.7 million in tax relief to Delaware County property owners during the upcoming tax year.

"There is a recognition on the part of the commissioners that this is a difficult time for taxpayers due to historically high inflation," said Commissioner Gary Merrell, president of this year's Board of Commissioners. "This will be the third year we are able to enact a rollback and, over these three tax years, the total relief provided is nearly $18 million."

The original rollback enacted by the commissioners in 2022 provided $4.8 million in tax relief, while it totaled $6.5 million last year. The Delaware County Auditor's Office has estimated that the 2024 rollback will provide $6,697,000 in tax relief.

"I am pleased we have the ability and the resources to offer this rollback, while maintaining the quality and breadth of services that we must provide our residents and property owners," Commissioner Barb Lewis said.

Commissioner Jeff Benton added, "This is an action that is made possible by the strong financial management practices that guide our entire organization. We recognize that these are unique times and, though we cannot guarantee we will continue to be able to roll this millage back, we certainly hope this helps our constituents."

Southwest District

Airport bids opened, one shelter discussed at commissioners' meeting

Record Herald, July 22, 2024

At the Fayette County Commissioners' meeting on Monday, bids were opened for the construction of the corporate airport hangar. Nine bids were received and each bid was opened and read into the record. Many of the bidders had representatives in attendance at the meeting.

The construction estimate by architect Mark Henry was $2.2 million dollars. The construction bids ranged from $1,748,000 to $2,419,911. The bids will now be reviewed and evaluated for conformance to the bid requirements, and a bid award will be announced.

In addition to a new hangar to be built, a commissioner stated that the taxiways were extended on either side of the 5,000 foot runway for easier exit after landing. The latest one was completed in 2021, funded by the federal government by 95% with 5% county funds. The other upgrade to be done at the airport will be the AWOS system more from its current location to the center to the office area, about 1,000 feet from the building. This system upgrade cannot be completed until the new federal money is released for the FAA, therefore, the project will be voted at a later date.

Southeast District

Lien reduction proposed for Belmont County residents

Times Leader, July 27, 2024

Belmont County residents could reduce their tax burden by approving a proposed levy in November.

The Belmont County Board of Commissioners met with representatives of the Belmont County Job and Family Services on Wednesday morning. The commission approved a motion to adopt a resolution declaring the necessity of levying a replacement tax for Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services. The levy's purpose is to support Children Services and the care placement of children in Belmont County. The new levy would replace the existing 0.65-mill levy with a reduction of 0.25 mills to collect below 0.40 mills.

"This levy will be on the ballot in November, and I think we all know how generous the Belmont County residents usually are in their approval of levies. This is a very important one — we all know some children we have adopted and abused, and we take care of them," Commissioner Jerry Echemann said. "This is the average citizen's way of, if nothing else, helping with the costs by just saying yes to something like this. Every person can help."

Echemann said he expects there to be a campaign for the levy and noted that the commissioners urge residents to approve the levy.

"The citizens of the county have been very generous when it comes to funding our efforts to protect kids from abuse, neglect and dependency in the county," DJFS Director Jeff Felton said.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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AUGUST 16
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 21
CSBCO Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 21 - 23
CCAO Summer Symposium - Hocking Hills

AUGUST 23
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 29
CCAO Webinar: Public Works Commission Update

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